



The Wasatch County Creamery shown here in this 1897 photograph.

owned by Mark Jeffs, was located west of town on the site near where the old gristmill now stands.

Another, which operated for a number of years, was established in 1898 about a mile north of Heber at a place called "The Point." This location is near the present Vern Price farm.

Known as the Wasatch Creamery Company, the firm was begun in 1897 with Abram Hatch, Sr., as president, Ludvig Anderson, secretary-treasurer, Joseph Hatch, general manager and superintendent of construction and Abram Hatch, Jr., plant manager.

High quality cheeses, butter and other milk products came from the creamery for use in Heber and many parts of the state. There was always a demand in Salt Lake City for cheddar cheese from the Wasatch Creamery.

The creamery's operations declined about 1912 as it became cheaper to haul the milk from Heber to Salt Lake City for processing, and this new competition soon forced the Hatch creamery out of business.

One other creamery that operated in Heber City was the Mutual Creamery Company located at 62 West 2nd North. Many local residents were the stockholders and owners of this mutual company.

The dairy industry today is Heber's largest, but all the milk is hauled by tank trucks from the valley for processing elsewhere, and comes back to the valley properly pasteurized and neatly packaged in cartons or bottles. Milk products from Heber are well known in all the metropolitan areas of Utah.

DAIRYING

ing in the valley began with individuals who owned one or two l would sell their surplus milk or dairy products to neighbors. ameries were established to collect the milk and distribute it e scale. Three such creameries have existed in Heber. One,



ABRAM HATCH, PERMELIA
JANE LOTT HATCH AND
RUTH WOOLLEY HATCH

Abram Hatch was born January 3, 1830, in Vermont, son of Hezekiah and Aldura Sumner Hatch. He married Permella Jane Lott in 1852 at Lehi. She was born Octo-

ber 18, 1830, in Vermont, daughter of Hezekiah and Luacine.

Abram Hatch, first stake president of Wasatch Stake, was a grandson of a Revolutionary War veteran, Jeremiah Hatch, who came to Plymouth Rock in 1760. His mother died while he was a boy, and his father died in 1841. Abram, with his two brothers and two sisters, Jeremiah, Lorenzo, Adeline and Elizabeth, moved to Illinois to live with grandparents. The children were left considerable money by their father, but it was entrusted to an uncle who used it for himself, leaving the youngsters to do for themselves. Abram had always desired an education, but it was not possible for him to obtain it. When his grandparents died he became a cabin boy on a Mississippi River boat, and later cut cordwood for a living. He worked as an apprentice in a store and learned merchandising. He

came to Utah in 1850, and was married to Permella Lott in Lehi in 1852. They built a cabin by Utah Lake and started a farm and small merchandise business in Lehi. He also hauled freight and brought companies of immigrants back to Utah, making 11 trips across the plains. In 1861 he was called on a mission to England, leaving his wife and youngsters at home. His wife managed the farm, store and also ran freight teams to the Missouri River to obtain the needed supplies. She sold provisions to Johnston's Army. When her husband's mission was completed she was able to send him \$10,000 in gold dust to tour Europe and return home. He used most of the money to purchase merchandise enroute home. He bought a threshing machine, the first to come to Utah, and also stocks for the store. Two years after his return he was called by President Brigham Young to move to Heber and serve as bishop of the ward. He later became the first stake president and served 33 years in that position. Active in civic affairs, he was probate judge six years and served in the territorial legislature 23 years, authoring many worthwhile pieces of legislation. He also established a fine merchandising business in Heber and was known as a farmer and banker. His first home in Heber was built on the corner of First North and Main. He later built a large sandstone home east of his mercantile business. His first wife died at the age of 48 and was buried according to her wishes, in Lehi, by the graves of two small sons. He married Ruth Woolley in 1882. She was then 25 years old, and bore him six children, four daughters and two sons. She was a lovely, talented young lady, with a fine singing voice, and was a great help to him as he grew older. He died in Heber on December 2, 1911, and was buried in Heber City Cemetery. It was his wish that he be buried in the county he had helped build and where he had lived so long. 375



ABRAM HATCH

Successful merchant and business leader.

on Fourth North. Continuing success found him moving to a Main Street location which is now occupied by the Hi-Way Motel.

The store became commonly known as "Mark's Store." Mr. Jeffs promoted the use of his own medium of exchange. He made coins of tin in various denominations which he exchanged for the hay, grain, eggs or any other produce that customers brought in. One side of the coins bore the inscription, "Mark Jeffs, October, 1897, Heber, Utah." On the other side was inscribed "Good for (the value of the coin) in merchandise." Similar coins or "scrip" as it became known was also used later at the Heber Mercantile Company.

In 1903 Mr. Jeffs was called as a missionary for the Church to England. He left Joseph A. Rasband in charge of the store and his other business interests. When he returned from England, Mr. Jeffs sold the store in a newly organized company known as the Heber Mercantile Company. He retained half interest in the new business and acted as manager for a short time and then president of the company. The new venture had a capital stock of \$15,000 when it was formed.

A new building was constructed to house the Heber Merc, and

Employees of Hotel or
Weather Creamery

John Frederick Olden

JOHN FREDRICK OHLWILER AND RHODA ELIZABETH HICKEN OHLWILER



John Fredrick Ohlwiler was born on September 26, 1871, to Henry and Eliza Jane Harvey Ohlwiler. Rhoda Elizabeth Hicken was born on November 8, 1874, to Addison and Sophia Elizabeth Moulton Hicken. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple on June 26, 1895.

They had been married 21½ years and had one daughter, Venola, when, on February 10, 1897, while helping his father clean the barnyard, 600 pounds of frozen fertilizer he was undermining fell on him, breaking his back. Dr. John W. Aird and a consulting doctor from Park City said he could not live, but the entire community fasted and prayed for his recovery. And their prayers were answered.

Although he was crippled and had to use crutches, and later a cane for support, he lived an active, successful and happy life. He was secretary of the Wasatch and the North Field Irrigation Companies from 1900 to 1938. He worked at Hatch's Creamery, located on Creamery Ditch, north of Heber, and at the Steamboat Drain Tunnel. He was custodian of the Central School and the Third Ward chapel from 1902 to 1930.

His wife, Rhoda, was his companion in every way, aiding in his activities and working to supplement his income. She was a seamstress when the complicated fashions of the day, with their plaits, ruffles, linings, tucks, and bows took days of patient

and skillful endeavor. And for a finished article, even an elaborate wedding dress, she received from \$1 to \$2.50. She made her wedding dress (shown in the picture).

She was a religious, wonderful person. She administered by night or by day to the needy, the sick, the dead. This was a service of love.

To John and Rhoda were born four daughters and two sons: Venola Cowley, Thelma Wootton, Nellie Kowallis, LeOra Lindsay, Wendell and Ferrin Ohlwiler. Venola, Wendell and Ferrin fulfilled missions for the Church. They are all civic, Church and community workers.